

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1161
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Exploration of PMS
Girri Shri Maheish

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the contract signed with International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exploration of Poly Metallic Sulphides (PMS) in the Indian Ocean;
- (b) whether the Government has strategized an execution plan for exploration of PMS;
- (c) if so, the details of the same along with time line fixed in this regard; and
- (d) the details of the ownership rights and revenue generation from the PMS that is obtained from the area allocated to the country in the Indian Ocean?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI. Y. S. CHOWDARY)

- (a) A contract was signed with International Seabed Authority for Exploration of Polymetallic Sulphides in Indian Ocean on 26th September, 2016 in New Delhi. The contract provides India the exclusive rights of exploration in the area near the Rodrigues Triple Junction in the southern part of Central India ridge and a part of South-West Indian ridge.
- (b) Yes Madam.
- (c) The plan for the survey and exploration along with the environmental baseline for the first five years includes the acquisition of multi-beam bathymetric data, seabed characterization, collection of sediment and rock samples, water column sampling followed by data processing, analysis and interpretation.
- (d) The ownership is a joint venture arrangement with International Seabed Authority on equity participation governed by Regulation 19 of International Seabed Authority pertaining to exploration of polymetallic sulphides. No revenue generation is anticipated as of now.